

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 NEAE-00 AGR-05 EB-07 AID-05 OES-03

OIC-02 IGA-02 PM-04 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2596

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1558

PASS TO RICHTER, NEA/TECH

FOR NEA/RA AND IO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, IR

SUBJECT: CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING: IRANIAN MOVE TO
BLOCK EARLY APPOINTMENT OF US AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

REFS: A) STATE 45775 B) TEHRAN 5791 C) EC/24/D9 1976 ESG(E) REPORT

SUMMARY: REF B IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
IRAN'S POSITION TOWARDS CENTO. HOWEVER, IRAN NOT ALONE IN
DESIRE FOR CHANGES
IN SECRETARIAT STAFFING: PAKISTAN WISHES TO MAINTAIN ITS LEVEL
OF SECONDED OFFICERS BUT REDUCE NUMBER OF TURKISH LOCAL HIRES; WHERE
AS TURKEY SEES SECRETARIAT AS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TURKS AND
WISHES GREATER NUMBER OF ITS NATIONALS OF BOTH SECONDED OFFICERS
AND AUXILIARIES. AGRICULTURE OFFICER AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY
POSITIONS CAUGHT IN THIS INTER-REGIONAL DIFFERENCE. WE BELIEVE
US SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PUSH FOR SECONDMENT OF US NATIONAL AND
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THUS APPEAR TO BE QUOTE BULLYING UNQUOTE ANY OF REGIONALS, PARTICULARLY

TURKEY, AT THIS STAGE OF DELICATE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. RESOLUTION A IS DEAD WITHOUT ACQUIESCENCE BY US, UK, AND IRAN TO FINANCE CAPITAL PROJECTS (AND THIS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING). END SUMMARY.

I. TAVAKOLI'S RESPONSES REPORTED IN REF B REITERATE HIS STATEMENTS ON IRAN'S POSITION TOWARDS CENTO AS EXPRESSED TO CRAWFORD A FEW DAYS EARLIER DURING CRAWFORD'S VISIT TO TEHRAN FEBRUARY 21-25. WHILE POINT RE DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL OFFICER AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY IF OFFICIAL CENTO POSITIONS ARE NOT ESTABLISHED WOULD NEED TO BE VERIFIED, REMAINDER IS FIRST CLEAR PRESENTATION OF IRAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CENTO AS UNDERSTOOD FROM GLEANINGS GATHERED OVER PAST YEAR BY USG PERSONNEL IN ANKARA.

II. 1. IRAN INSISTS SIZE OF SECRETARIAT BE REDUCED AND IRAN BELIEVES DELAYING TACTICS USED ON REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL OFFICER AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY POSITIONS WILL MAINTAIN PRESSURE TOWARDS THAT GOAL. TURKEY, HOWEVER, IS ON OTHER SIDE OF FENCE AND WISHES TO RETAIN AS MANY TURKISH JOBS AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY FOR UNSKILLED QUOTE AUXILIARIES UNQUOTE. SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS ATTITUDE AND AVAILS HIMSELF OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN TURKEY'S HOLD ON POSITIONS IN THE SECRETARIAT. PAKISTAN WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS PROPORTION OF SECONDED PAKISTAN NATIONALS BUT DEFINITELY IS PRESSING FOR REDUCTION IN TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF --AGAIN, MAINLY TURKS. PAKISTAN WAS MOST RELUCTANT DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDS FOR STAFF SALARY INCREASES, EVIDENTLY WISHING TO ABSORB COSTS BY STAFF REDUCTIONS. THUS, IRAN WANTS FEWER TOTAL JOBS. TURKEY WANTS MORE--OR AT LEAST MAINTAIN PRESENT NUMBER-- OF JOBS BUT AS MANY JOBS AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE FOR TURKS, AND PAKISTAN WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS SECONDED JOBS BUT REDUCE NUMBER OF LOCAL HIRED TURKS.

2.

AT 1976 ESG(E), TURKEY MADE PITCH FOR SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY AND AGRICULTURAL OFFICER TO BE NATIONALS OF REGION. WHEN REITERATED THAT UK AND US WOULD NOT SEPARATELY FUND, TURKEY WENT ALONG IN CONCURRING IN ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITIONS BUT ALSO REPEAT ALSO DESIRED THAT

ESTABLISHMENT TO BE DONE WITHIN TOTAL REORGANIZATION ACTIVITY. DISCUSSION OCCURRED DURING REGULAR AGENDA SEQUENCE AND DURING APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FINAL REPORT (SEE PARA IV OF REF C). AT ONE POINT IN CONCLUDING SESSION, TURKEY AND IRAN PARTICULARLY BUT ALSO TO SOME EXTENT PAKISTAN RAISED SO MANY PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS THAT CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED BY SAYING THAT RECORD INDICATES US OFFERED UPON URGING BY 1975 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND THAT

US WANTED ONLY TO BE RESPONSIVE IN ANY AREA IN WHICH IT COULD. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT REGIONALS NOW SEEMED TO BE INDICATING A CHANGE OF DESIRE AND ASKED THAT REGIONALS EXPRESS THEIR DESIRE SO RECORD COULD BE CLEAR. ALL THREE THEN APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION FOR URGENT ACTION SO BOTH SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY AND AGRICULTURAL OFFICER POSITIONS COULD BE FILLED.

3. THUS, IRAN IS NOT ALONE IN ITS VIEWS ON STAFFING AND DEFINITELY NOT ALONE IN ITS DELAYING TACTICS ON AGRICULTURAL OFFICER AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY POSITIONS. THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT IF IRAN WERE TO APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITIONS IN ADVANCE OF COMPLETION OF REORGANIZATION STUDY THAT TURKEY AUTOMATICALLY WOULD AGREE. IT ALSO SHOULD BE APPARENT THAT US SHOULD NOT GET ITSELF INTO POSITION OF SEEMING TO PUSH FOR, INSIST UPON, OR OTHERWISE BE UNDER ONUS OF PRESSURING REGIONAL MEMBERS. OF SPECIAL NOTE IS THAT US MUST NOT REPEAT NOT APPEAR TO BE QUOTE BULLYING UPQUOTE TURKEY AT THIS STAGE OF EXTREMELY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY OVER PRESENTLY INOPERATIVE BASES. US HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY ATTITUDE OF RESPONDING TO REGIONAL MEMBERS OF CENTO, NOT TRYING TO LEAD OR DIRECT, AND ATTITUDE OF QUOTE RESPONSIVENESS UNQUOTE SHOULD CONTINUE IN REGARD TO AGRICULTURAL OFFICER POSITION.

III. ON RESOLUTION A, IRAN SUBMITTED 15 ONE-LINE PROJECT TITLES FOR CONSIDERATION. OTHER COUNTRIES COULD NOT MAKE INTELLIGENT COMMENTS ON SUCH SPARSE INFORMATION AND IRAN TURNED ASIDE EFFORTS BY US, US AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ECONOMIC) TO ELICIT FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO GET DISCUSSION OF SUBSTITUTE PROPOSALS. TURKEY STATED IT SAW NO PURPOSE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS UNLESS UK AND US WERE WILLING PLEDGE FUNDS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS PRIOR TO PREPARATION OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. PAKISTAN JOINED TURKEY IN THIS

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POSITIONS. IRAN NEVER OFFERED TO FINANCE AND USUALLY REMAINED SILENT OR FELL BACK UPON ITS QUOTE LIST OF 15 PROJECTS UNQUOTE. TO CLARIFY UNDERSTANDING OF RESOLUTION A MEANING, AT 1976 ESG(E) PAKISTAN SPOKE FOR REGIONALS IN SAYING IT MEANT INFRASTRUCTURE, CAPITAL PROJECTS FINANCED BY OTHER THAN PAKISTAN AND TURKEY; US AND UK RESPONDED BY SAYING CENTO NEEDS TO GET GREATER PRODUCTIVITY AND BENEFITS FROM CURRENT RESOURCES AND NO CAPITAL AID WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. IRAN AVOIDED QUESTION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE, FOR REGIONALS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN ROUTINE OVER PAST YEARS AND THEREFORE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR INCLUSION AS NEW INITIATIVE UNDER RESOLUTION A. TAVAKALI RIGHTLY STATES THAT PROJECTS PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT COULD BE FINANCED UNDER CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS BUT HE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND CHANGES IN STAFFING REQUIRED BY SECRETARIAT IN ORDER TO DO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTING JOB.

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